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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT

The Vah Machinery Works (Povazske  
Strojirny) National Corporation,  
Klement Gottwald Plant in Povazska  
Bystrica, SlovakiaPLACE  
ACQUIREDDATE  
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DATE OF INFO

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1.

The Vah Machinery Works (Povazske Strojirny) National Corporation, Klement Gottwald Plant in Povazska Bystrica makes various kinds of steel wires of six mm to 10 cm in diameter, non-ferrous metal bars (copper, aluminum, brass), lead bars from six mm to 10 cm, pipes made of non-ferrous metals (brass, copper, aluminum, lead), various types of sheet iron, and non-ferrous metal sheets (various thicknesses and sizes). The following items were also produced:

- (a) Motorcycles, make Manet, 98 cubic cms, weight 48 kgs. The production is organized on assembly line. Every eight minutes a new motorcycle is made. The production cost of a motorcycle was 4,200 crowns in summer 1951; the sales price at that time was 48,000 crowns. The motorcycles were mainly exported to the Soviet Union and to other Satellite countries. The sales on the home market were very small, mainly because of the extremely high price.
- (b) Refrigerators, type Manets. The production is organized on assembly line; every five minutes a refrigerator is made. The refrigerators are cooled by ammonia. The sales price of a refrigerator in June 1952 was 37 thousand crowns. However, only a very small part of the production was reserved for the home market. Most of it was exported to the Soviet Union and to the other Satellites.
- (c) Ammunition for rifles, submachine guns, and pistols. These were made by a division under military administration and accessible only to workers employed in that division. The whole production was destined for the Soviet Union, North Korea.
- (d) Machinery for the production of ammunition for rifles, submachine guns and pistols. This was made during the first half of 1951. The total number of machines produced was 180 units. All machines produced were exported to Ethiopia, where a plant was under construction.
- (e) In addition, the plant makes milk cans, various castings, boilers and gasoline tanks, mostly for the domestic market.
- (f) In the field of fine machinery, the plant makes measuring tools and precision machine tools.
- (g) Raw material is supplied by various plants, eg, special steel from Kladno Poldi Steel Works. The Vitkovice Iron Works supplies cast iron which is further processed in the Povazske Strojirny plant. Ball bearings are imported.

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2. In June 1945 this plant built an armament factory in Ethiopia. This plant makes pistols, rifles and submachine guns. Some of the workers from Povazske Strojirny were sent to work at the plant in Ethiopia and received a supplement of 5,000 crowns per month to their regular wage. The plant in Ethiopia was equipped with entirely new machinery.
3. The Povazske Strojirny Plant is equipped with modern machinery, of various makes of Czechoslovak production like Skoda, Zeta, Zelenta (machine tools, lathes, grinding machines, etc). Of the machinery of foreign make mention should be made of US machines Cincinnati, and Swedish and German machine tools. The technical offices of the plant have modern equipment. Throughout the whole plant there are concrete roads and a railway tracks. The plant has five trucks: one Tatra, 5-ton; two Skoda, 10-ton; one Skoda, 5-ton; one Renault, 5-ton. In addition there are three autobusses, a number of passenger cars, motorcycles and fifty battery lorries.
4. The directorate of the plant is located in the plant itself. In the summer of 1951, the manager of the plant was Mr Jaroslav Kubik. The total number of employees is 6,000 workers; of this number 1,000 are skilled workers, 1,500 women, 600 administrative and technical employees; the rest were helpmen. The average wage of a skilled worker was 5,000 crowns a month; of a non-skilled worker, 3,500 crowns; skilled women workers, 4,000 crowns; non-skilled women workers, 2,500 crowns; administrative and technical employees, 5,000 crowns a month.
5. Approximately 30% of the total of the employees are members of the Communist Party. However, out of this number only 10% can be considered as loyal Communists. The members had the best jobs in the factory. Communist propaganda in the plant is strong; however, the opinion of the workers is not favorably disposed toward the regime. The plant organization of the Communist Party holds meetings in the plant every week and organizes social events, concerts and theater performances in the plant. The plant has its own social and cultural center. On the bulletin board appear the names of successful workers and improvers. Great pains are taken to attract young workers. They are given the opportunity to register at universities and technical schools without any previous studies, or are sent to various political schools. If a worker refuses to join the Communist Party, he is sent to the worst kind of work or transferred to work in the mines. Shortage of goods is considerable. There are no goods in the stores; people do not have money to buy the necessary items in the free market stores. People do not trust each other and are afraid of undercover agents. They speak frankly to each other only if they are in a small group where they all know each other intimately.
6. The plant works in three or two shifts. Employees who were assigned to emergency projects worked in one shift.
7. The plant has its own factory guard consisting of 120 men. These guards wear green uniforms and are armed with rifles and pistols. In addition, the plant has its own factory militia consisting of 300 men armed with rifles and pistols. Light and heavy machine guns are stored in the ammunition depot. The plant is also provided with a military administration and a permanent military patrol which guards the division producing ammunition. The military guard unit has approximately 40 men under the command of a captain. The plant has its own fire company of 30 men, two fire engines, and four ambulances.
8. Coal is supplied from Ostrava and Handlova. Electric energy is supplied by power plants in Ostrava and Ilava. The plant has its own waterworks.

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ENCLOSURE (A): Diagram Showing Plan of the Vah Machinery Works (Povazske Strojirny)  
National Corporation, Klement Gottwald Plant in Povazska Bystrica,  
With Accompanying Legend.

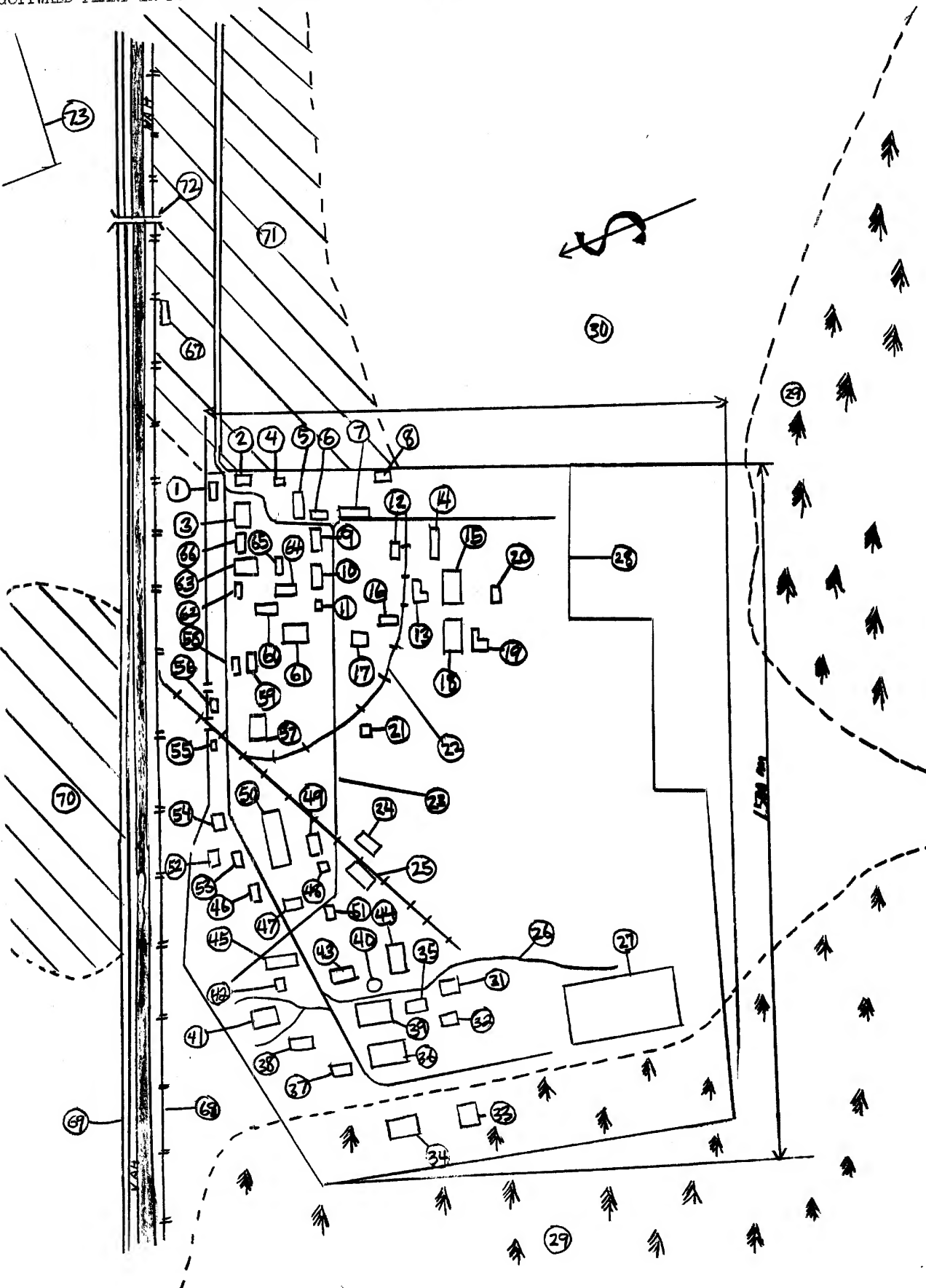
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DIAGRAM SHOWING PLAN OF THE VAH MACHINERY WORKS (POVAZSKE STROJIRNY), NATIONAL CORPORATION, KLEMENT  
GOTTWALD PLANT IN POVAZSKA BYSTRICA, WITH ACCOMPANYING LEGEND



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## Legend

- 1... Main gate. This is a single-story steel and concrete house 10 x 6 meters with a flat roof. Eight men of factory guard, armed with rifles and pistols, are on duty here.
- 2... Sheds for the bicycles of the employees.
- 3... Building No 62, a production hall for motorcycles "Manet". This is a single-story building, 80 by 60 meters, steel and concrete construction, and with a glass roof shaped like three reversed V's.
- 4... Gatekeeper's lodge. This is a single-story, wooden barrack, five by four meters, with a tar-paper roof. This gate serves as entrance to the estate which belongs to the plant.
- 5... Workshops. This is a single-story building, 40 by 10 meters, with a roof shaped like one reversed V.
- 6... Welding hall (for electric and autogenous welding) a single-story wooden barrack, 20 by 10 meters, with a tar-paper roof.
- 7... Cabinet maker's workshop, 50 by 12 meters, with the same construction as that of the building described under point 5.
- 8... Apprentices' school. This is a two-story building, 30 by 12 meters, of steel and concrete construction, and with a roof shaped like one reversed V.
- 9... Unidentified.
- 10... Hardening hall.
- 11... Electric power transformer of steel and concrete construction, 10 x 10 meters.
- 12... Wood and timber storehouse, storehouse of models and modelling workshops. This is a single-story wooden barrack, 25 by 12 meters, with a tar-paper roof.
- 13... Foundry for brown pig iron. This is steel and concrete building, 30 x 30 x 12 meters. There is a chimney on this building made of sheet metal and 8 meters high.
- 14... Paint workshop, a single-story wooden barrack 50 x 12 meters with a tar-paper roof.
- 15... Building No 25, a hall for the production of artillery ammunition and milk cans. This is a single-story steel and concrete building, 60 x 60 meters, with a glass-plated roof shaped like two reversed V's.
- 16... Technical offices for buildings Nos 24 and 25. This is a three-story brick building 30 x 10 meters, with a flat roof.
- 17... Air raid shelter, a concrete fortification 30 meters square.
- 18... Building No 24, a hall for the production of artillery ammunition. This is single-story brick building, 80 by 50 meters, with a roof shaped like two reversed V's.
- 19... Depot for ammunition for the artillery and storehouse for milk cans. This is a single-story brick building, 30 x 30 x 12 meters, with a tar-paper roof.
- 20... Boiler room serving the whole plant, a single-story brick building, 15 x 10 meters.
- 21... A hall with electric welding machines, a single-story brick building 25 x 15 meters, with a flat concrete roof.
- 22... Railway track leading through the plant.
- 23... A concrete road leading through the plant.
- 24... Storehouse for iron bars of various diameters. This is a single-story steel and concrete building 60 x 20 meters with a concrete flat roof.
- 25... Main storehouse for various kinds of material for the whole plant (ball bearings, electrical equipment, etc) This is a single-story steel and concrete building 60 x 15 meters with a flat concrete roof.
- 26... A concrete road leading through the plant.
- 27... Firing range for testing of ammunition for rifles, submachine guns and pistols. The whole area is 250 x 100 meters and is enclosed by a barbed-wire fence.
- 28... Fence enclosing the plant. The fence is 2.5 meters high and made of wire net fixed on concrete poles.
- 29... Forest
- 30... Field of the estate belonging to the plant.
- 31... Foundry for non-ferrous metals. This is a two-story steel and concrete building, 40 x 30 meters, with a flat concrete roof. There is a factory chimney on this building 35 meters high.
- 32... Storehouse for ingots. This is a single-story brick building, 25 x 15 meters, with a flat concrete roof.
- 33... Underground plant for the production of gunpowder. On the surface there is only an entrance to the plant. The entrance is 20 meters high. The shells produced in the plant are filled with the powder produced here. The building is guarded day and night by sentries.
- 34... Hall for the production of percussion caps. This building is located under a wooded hill. The building is guarded day and night by sentries.
- 35... Foundry for light metals. This is a single-story steel and concrete construction, 30 by 15 meters, with a flat concrete roof.
- 36... Building No 06, which produces small arms ammunition. This is a single-story brick building, 80 x 50 meters, with a roof shaped like three reversed V's.
- 37... Storehouse of ready products, a steel and concrete construction, 20 x 15 meters, with a flat concrete roof. The building is permanently guarded by sentries.
- 38... Assembly hall for small arms ammunition. Here the ammunition is finished. This is a single-story brick building, 30 x 20 meters, with a glass roof shaped like a reversed V.
- 39... Building No 44, a hall for the production of small arms. This is a single-story brick building, 80 x 60 meters with a glass roof shaped like three reversed V's.
- 40... A wooden water cooling tower, 12 meters in diameter, 10 meters high.
- 41... Building No 56, a hall for assembling motorcycles. The construction of the building is the same as that described under point 39. Its size is 60 x 40 meters.
- 42... Office of the security officer. This is a single-story brick building, 10 meters square, with a flat roof.

- 43... Garages for trucks. This is a single-story brick building, 30 x 15 meters, with a tile roof.
- 44... Steel rolling mill, a steel and concrete factory hall, 60 by 40 by eight meters, with a roof shaped like two reversed V's. This building has a chimney 40 meters high.
- 45... Directorate of the plant. In the same building are accommodated workers' council, Trade Unions (Revolutionary Trade Union Movement - ROH), plant organization of the Communist Party and chemical laboratory. The building has three stories, has a tile roof and is 100 x 18 meters in size.
- 46... Plant kitchen and canteen, a two-story brick building, 40 x 20 meters. On the second floor are offices and the economic administration.
- 47... Storehouse for light metals, a single-story brick building, 25 x 15 meters, with a flat concrete roof.
- 48... Gasoline depot, storehouse for oils, and acids. This is a single-story brick building, 25 x 15 meters, with a flat concrete roof.
- 49... Storehouse for metal waste. The waste material is sorted here.
- 50... Press hall. This is a single-story hall, 120 x 60 x 8 meters, with a glass roof shaped like three reversed V's. This building was rebuilt in 1951.
- 51... Testing division for material is housed in this three-story brick building, 20 x 15 meters, with tile roof.
- 52... Personnel and wage division is housed in this two-story brick building, 25 x 15 meters, with a flat concrete roof.
- 53... Electrical workshop. This is a single-story brick building 30 x 15 meters with a glass roof shaped like a reversed V.
- 54... Military administration of the plant is housed in this two-story brick building, 20 x 15 meters, with a tile roof.
- 55... Gatekeeper's lodge at the point where the railway track enters the plant grounds. This is a single-story wooden barrack, 4 x 4 meters, with a permanent military sentry on duty.
- 56... Workers' entrance. This is a single-story steel and concrete construction, 5 x 5 meters with a flat roof. Three men of the factory guard are always on duty here.
- 57... Building for wire production. This is a single-story brick building 60 x 40 meters, with a flat concrete roof.
- 58... Plant medical dispensary (first aid) with garages for four ambulances. This is a two-story brick building, 20 x 10 meters, with a tile roof.
- 59... Factory fire station. This is a single-story brick building, 30 x 10 meters. On this building is a wooden tower approximately 15 meters high.
- 60... Plant machinery control with foremen on duty in charge of the machinery. This is a single-story wooden barrack 40 x 10 meters, with a tar-paper roof.
- 61... Building No 07, a hall for the production of small arms ammunition machinery. This is a single-story brick building 50 x 40 meters, with a roof shaped like two reversed V's.
- 62... Apprentices' workshops. This is a single-story steel and concrete building, 25 x 15 meters, with a flat roof.
- 63... Building No 63 for the production of refrigerators. The construction of the building is the same as that described under point 61. The size of the building is 60 x 40 meters.
- 64... Hall for the assembling of machines for the production of ammunition. This is a single-story frame building, 40 x 20 meters.
- 65... Military storehouse for machinery for the production of rifles model 24. This is a single-story wooden barrack 40 x 10 meters, with a tar-paper roof.
- 66... Technical offices for the whole plant. This is a single-story wooden barrack 40 x 10 meters, with a tar-paper roof.
- 67... Railway station of the Czechoslovak State Railroads in Povazska Bystrica.
- 68... Double-track railway of the Czechoslovak State Railroads Bratislava - Zilina.
- 69... District road from Puchov to Poprad.
- 70... The village of Orlova.
- 71... The town of Povazska Bystrica.
- 72... Steel and concrete bridge.
- 73... Factory glass-covered airfield. On the airfield is a wooden hangar housing two planes which belong to the Povazske Strojirny Plant.

All buildings of the Povazske Strojirny Plant are camouflaged by paint.